

Preface

The underlying assumption of this book is that the objective of government policy, ultimately, is to improve the quality of life of its citizens. While writing it, I was an official in the U.S. government at the Federal Communications Commission, the regulatory agency for telephones and television. Therefore, I am intimately familiar with the pressures and compromises necessary in policy work. Consequently, I have both sympathy and empathy for my colleagues in China as they alternately succeed and fail with their policies. I continue to have a high regard for them and their work.

Also, I wish to thank the dozens of experts in China who shared with me their insights at length. They cannot be named now, but I look forward to a time when no one would worry if they were.

While working on this research, I had many advisors. Especially, I thank my advisor David Lampton, as well as Anne Thurston, Scott Barrett, Robert Pepper, and Karl Jackson for their suggestions. Ernest Wilson and Peter Cowhey provided cogent comments that clarified and shaped the ideas in this book. Dan Wright read through the entire manuscript at a critical moment. As I mentioned earlier, I worked at the FCC while writing on weekends and on leave. I thank my many friends there who either by doing more or asking less, enabled me to get on with this research. In the end, however, this book reflects a personal, not an official view, and I am fully responsible for its remaining flaws.

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Finally, for their love, I thank my parents, Chuen-Shiong and Lily Wu, and my sister, Tina, and to them this book is dedicated.

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